

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 3, 2005. Claims 1-57 were pending. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 20 have been canceled, and claims 2-12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21-31, 33, 34, 36 and 38-57 have been amended. Claims 4 and 23 have been amended by rewriting them into independent form. Claims 2, 3, 5-12, 14, 15, 17 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 4, and claims 21, 22, 24-31, 33, 34, 36 and 38 have been amended to depend from claim 23. Claims 39-57 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention, without narrowing a scope of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 2-19 and 21-57 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 4 and 23 being in independent form.

The drawings were objected to as having informalities. The specification was objected to as having informalities.

The drawings and the specification have been reviewed and amended to correct the formal matters noted in the Office Action.

The replacement sheets of drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit A** include changes to, and replace, Figures 1-6c, 8 and 20 of the original sheets of drawings.

Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 39-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as purportedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 39-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

By this Amendment, the claims have been amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101 and under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0008258 (Suzuki et al.).

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 4 and 23 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

The present application relates to image size-change processing.

For example, independent claim 4 is directed to an image processing apparatus for changing the size of image data of an original image, comprising a comparison part and a sharing-ratio determining part. The comparison part compares an image information value which indicates predetermined image information of the original image, with a corresponding predetermined reference value which is previously set for each of the predetermined image information. The sharing-ratio determining part determines based on a comparison result of the comparison part, a sharing ratio in processing for changing the size of the image data between a first processing way and a second processing way different from the first processing way. In addition, the sharing-ratio determining part adjusts the sharing ratio in the processing between the first and second processing ways so that the entire process of a predetermined image size-change processing is completed within a given time duration when a required processing time which is taken for performing the entire processing of the predetermined image size-change processing exceeds the given time duration.

Suzuki, as understood by Applicant, is directed to techniques for converting color image resolution (from relatively low-resolution to relatively high-resolution). Paragraph [0006] of

Suzuki refers generally to unidentified Japanese Laid-open Publications which purportedly propose techniques for converting a relatively low-resolution image into a relatively high-resolution image according to image category. Paragraph [0009] of Suzuki refers generally to the object of converting a relatively low-resolution image into a relatively high-resolution image with a relatively short image conversion time.

Paragraph [0100] of Suzuki states as follows:

[0100] Referring back to FIG. 13, in step S22-4, the CPU 106 determines color differences I and Q of the generated pixels by duplicating the color differences I and Q of the target pixel X. As previously described, luminance values of the generated pixels are determined using the bi-directional linear interpolation method and color differences I and Q of the generated pixels are simply duplicated. In this case, the enlarged image may be satisfactory because the human eye has a high sensitivity for luminance Y and low sensitivity for color and computation time advantageously is saved.

Paragraph [0127] of Suzuki states as follows:

[0127] As described above, the output pixels are determined according to the reference pixels including the target pixel X. In this way, an outline of the enlarged image becomes smooth. In addition, each of the contour lines of the red, green and blue image (i.e., a boundary between a relatively light zone and a relatively dark zone in each of the red, green and blue data) changes at identical pixel locations. Thus, improper coloring or blurring at a vicinity of an outline of a generated image is avoided. In addition, the resolution converting operation is executed with minimal processing time.

Applicant does not find disclosure or suggestion in the cited art, however, of adjusting the sharing ratio in the processing between the first and second processing ways so that the entire process of a predetermined image size-change processing is completed within a given time duration when a required processing time which is taken for performing the entire processing of the predetermined image size-change processing exceeds the given time duration, as provided by independent claim 4.

Since the cited art does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention, the cited art does not render the claimed invention unpatentable.

Independent claim 23 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

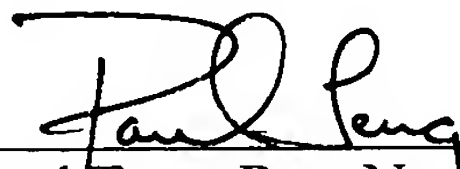
Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 4 and 23, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings

The replacement sheets of drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit A** include changes to, and replace, Figures 1-6c, 8 and 20 of the original sheets of drawings. Figures 1-6c are now labeled as prior art. Figure 8 has been amended to replace the numerical designation of image processing apparatus 2 to “1”. Figure 20 has been amended by removing step designations S107 and S108.

Attachment: replacement sheets of drawings for Figures 1-6c, 8 and 20